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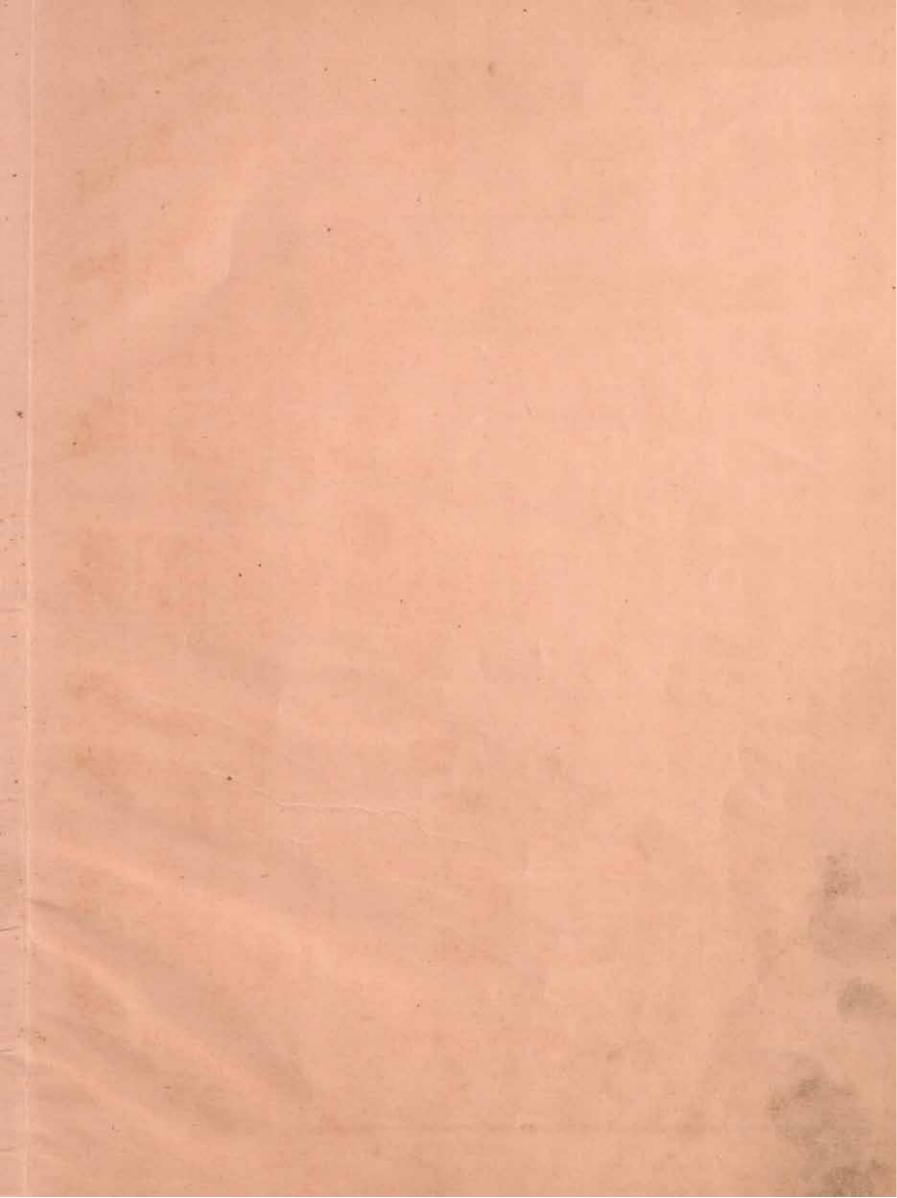
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Some Recently Added Sculptures in the Provincial Museum, Lucknow

BY

PANDIT HIRANANDA SHASTRI, M.A., M.O.L.

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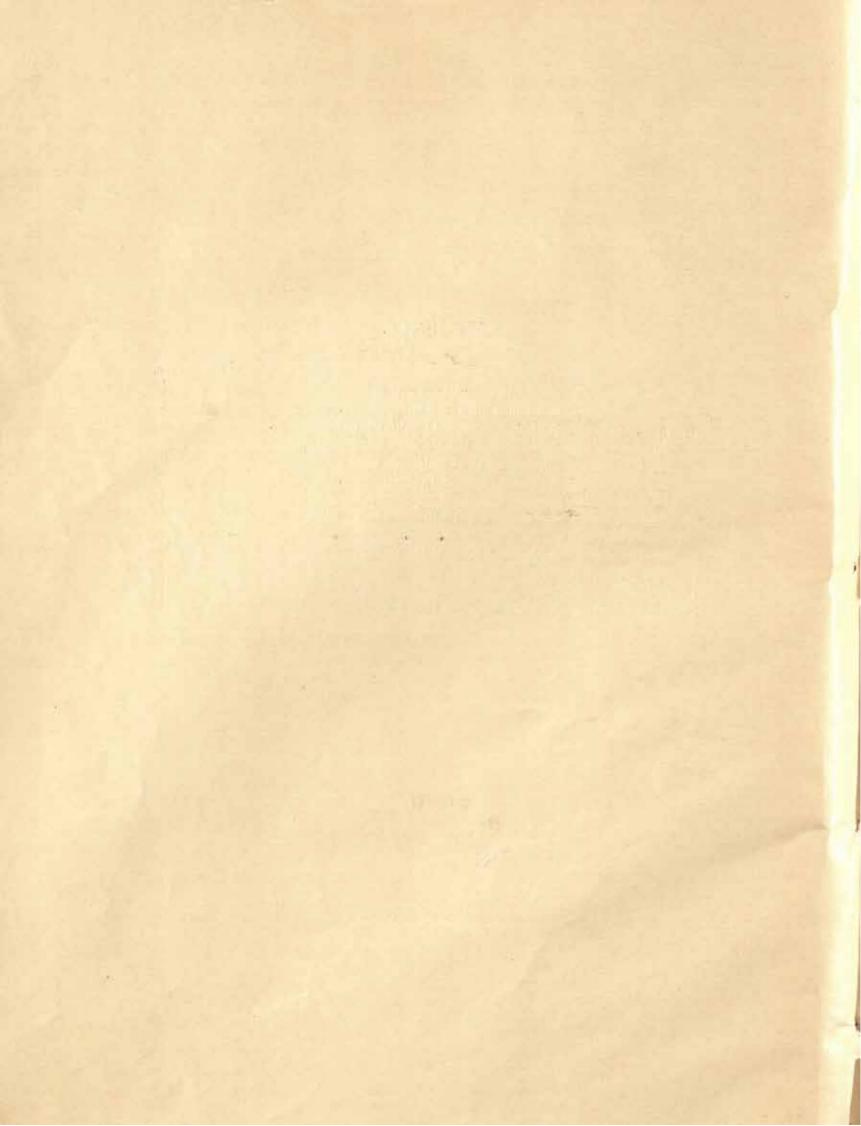
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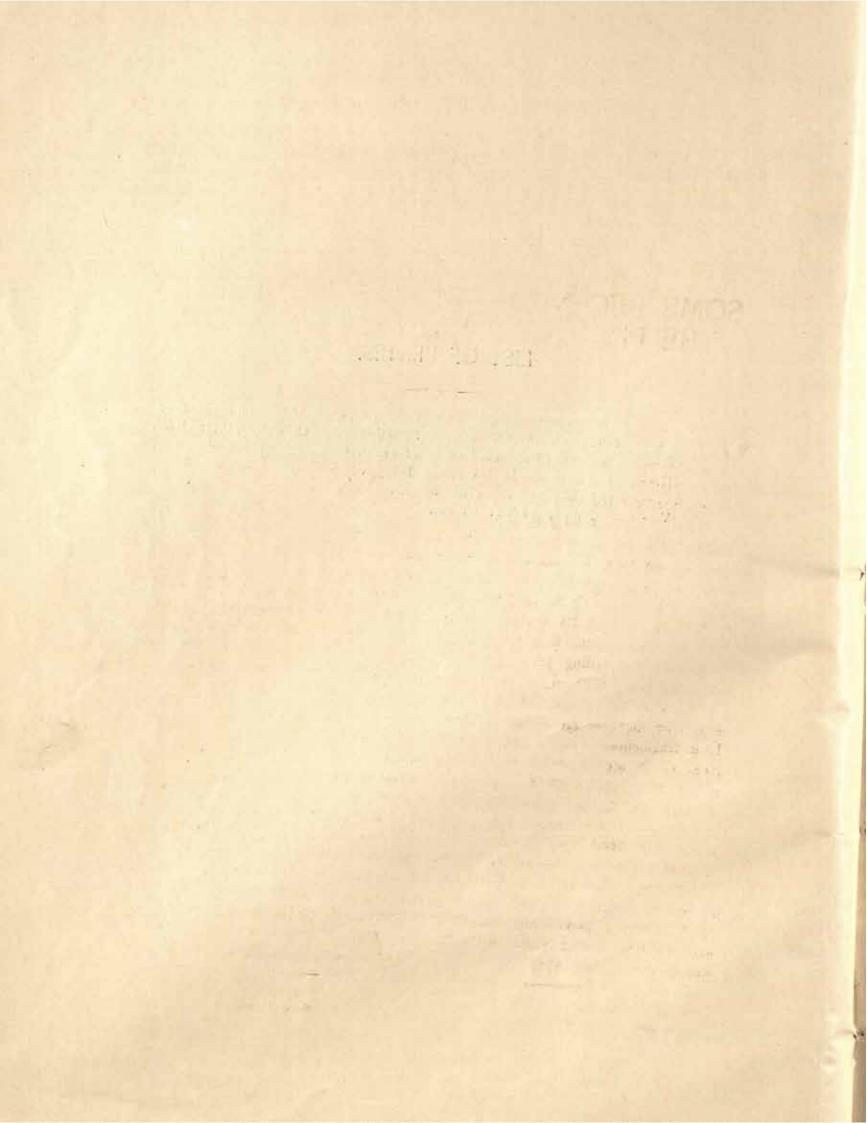
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LIST OF PLATES.

Plate I.—(a) Stone image of Suvidhinātha from Chhatarpur, Central India; (b) Railing figure from Gurgaon; (c) Stone image of Neminātha from Chhatarpur, Central India.

- ,, II.—(a & b) Tara and Buddha in brass from Śravasti,
- " III.—(a & b) Varāha from Dudhai, District Lalitpur.
- ,, IV. -(a & b) Metal figure of Siva from Benares.
- " V.—(a & b) Brass image from Hardwar.



SOME RECENTLY ADDED SCULPTURES IN THE PROVINCIAL MUSEUM, LUCKNOW.

DURING the last few years when I held charge of the Provincial Museum at Lucknow some valuable additions were made to its archeological section, and as they have not been noticed before I publish them here in the interests of students of Indian iconography. The acquisitions which I intend to notice are eight images belonging to different cults. Three are Buddhist, two Brahmanical and three Jaina. Of the Buddhist images, two are in gilt copper and the third is in stone. Of the Brahmanical figures one is of sandstone and the other appears to be of gun-metal. Of the Jaina statues one is of brass and two are in black marble. The brass one bears a dated inscription giving the time of its consecration. The two Buddhist figurines in gilt copper also bear inscriptions though nothing more than the well-known creed formula. Excepting the railing pillar, which belongs to the Kushāna period, they are all mediæval. With this foreword I proceed to describe them in detail.

First of all, I take the Buddhist images. The earliest of these is, as is shown by mortices on the sides, a railing pillar in red sandstone (Plate I, Fig. b). It is fragmentary and measures 2'8" by 8". Both the obverse and the reverse faces of it are carved. The obverse bears the much damaged figure of a female standing under a tree (which, excepting part of the foliage, is now missing) playing the Vīṇā or Indian lyre and possibly representing a daughter of Māra. It very much resembles the sculpture in Mr. Dames's collection which has been reproduced by Mr. Vincent Smith in his History of Fine Arts in India and Ceylon¹ and which perhaps, stands for Māra himself. The reverse shows three lotus flowers such as we find on other railing pillars. It is said to have come from the Gurgaon District in the Punjab.² The style of it, however, particularly the treatment of the drapery, the heavy ear-rings and anklets, having close resemblance to the well-known railing figures of Mathurā, will show that the place of its origin must have been Mathurā and

¹ Page 117, Fig. 60.

For other Buddhist sculptures from this District see Vogel, A.S.R. 1909-10, page 65,

not Gurgaon. The other figures were dug out, as the Executive Engineer of the Gonda Division of the United Provinces informed me, along with three other remains, namely, a miniature $st\bar{u}pa$ with a square base (25" by 25"), a Vajra or thunder-bolt, 41" long and a broken bell when a small hedge was cut in the compound of Sahēt or the site of the ancient Jėtavana, and were sent to the Museum in the month of March, 1913. They are of one and the same style and consequently contemporary; an inference supported by the type of the characters used in the writing seen at their back. One of the remaining two images represents Tārā and the other Gautama Buddha (Plate II) or perhaps, Akshobhya, one of the five Dhyāni Buddhas of the Mahāyānists. That a Vajra was found along with them would indicate that they are of the Mahayana School, as is shown also of course, by the very figure of Tārā itself. The image of Tārā is 61" high, including the pedestal. It represents the deity seated on a lotus in the oriental fashion, with the right leg hanging down and the foot resting on the pedestal, while the left leg rests on the lotus in the "sukhāsīna" pose. The right hand is placed on the right knee with a conical object which appears to be a vase. The left hand is placed in the "nidrita" pose and holds a conventional lotus. The deity is wearing jewellery-anklets, girdle, wristlet, armlet, necklace, ear-rings and a three-pointed head-dress. She wears also a dhoti and what may be a sash, worn like the sacred thread. Her hair is dressed in long locks which fall on the shoulders. She is shown laughing somewhat wildly. The round piece at the back extending from the lotus seat to a little above the head is evidently meant for the prabhāmandala or nimbus. Except at the border, where it is dentated, it is all plain, the border being formed by a raised line circumscribing the plain surface. It is surmounted by an umbrella pierced by a long stick forked at the upper end and fixed at the centre of the nimbus. The umbrella is decorated with two pendants or festoons hanging one on each side up to the aura. The lotus on which the figure is seated rests on a double rectangular base or pedestal (3" by 31") which is supported on four legs and is hollow. The inner base measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ by 2" and the outer one 3" by $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". At the back of the prabhāmandala or rather the image, about the middle, is soldered a small circular piece which bears the well-known formula of the Buddhist creed, which Aśvajit addressed to Sāriputra, engraved in low relief in characters of about the 8th or 9th century A.D.

The inscription at the back, that is, the creed formula, the association with the representations of Buddha, the Stūpa and the Vajra, which were found along with it, will at once lead us to identify the figurine with that of Tārā the well-known Bodhisattva of the Buddhist pantheon, as does the "utpala" or blue lotus seen in the left hand, as this is a characteristic emblem of Tārā. As to the special form of Tārā which this image represents, I would remark that the artist does not seem to have been particular about it, for he has not given all the characteristics of any

¹ This specimen is forked at the end as is the case with those from Nepal and Tibet unlike the Vajra shown in Gandhāra sculpture which is not forked.

special form. The pose is that of the Syama-Tara or Green Tara, who is usually represented seated on a lotus-throne with the right leg pendant, but we do not find any lotus supporting the foot which here rests on the pedestal. In this point she will resemble the Khadiravarnī Tārā which is a form of the yellow Tārā, but differs in the mudrās or mystic poses of the hands, the Khadiravarnī Tārā being shown as similarly seated with her right hand in the 'charity' mudrā holding the stem of a full-blown lotus flower, the left hand being in the 'argument' mudrā holding the stem of an "utpala." The attribute of the right hand is not unlike the Kalaśa or vase, and this will lend additional support to her identification with the yellow Tara. But we have to remember that this form, namely, the yellow one, holds a vase in one of the left hands, the other holding a trident. But artists do not always follow tradition and are at times erroneous in their distribution of attributes. It is particularly the "utpala" shown in profile with its centre hidden, whose stem is held in the left hand, which tends to identify the figure with that of the Syāma or Green Tārā, as this is her special symbol. Although the right hand is not in the "Vara"-mudrā still it may perhaps be connected with her form as Dhanada and the vase may be taken to be a ratnaghata or vase of jewels.

Though the figure, I believe, is undoubtedly a representation of the Buddhist Tārā, yet because of her resemblance in at least one or two points to the image of the Brahmanical deity of this name, it will not be inappropriate to study her in conjunction with the homonymous goddess of the Hindu pantheon. Nor, I think, will it be out of place to make a few remarks as to her origin. The Hindu or Brahmanical mythology knows of several Tārās. One of them is the wife of Brhaspati, the preceptor of the gods, who was carried off by Soma, was afterwards restored to her husband at the intercession of Brahmā, and who gave birth to a son named Budha who through Pururavas became the progenitor of the lunar race of kings. Another Tārā is the wife of Bāli or the mother of Angada. The third Tara known to the Puranas or epics was the wife of Harischandra, a king of the solar race famous for his liberality and probity and unflinching adherance to truth. But with these we have no concern at present. To Hemādri, who lived about 1300 A.D., Tārā is known as one of the sixty-four Yoginis or female attendants on Siva or Durga. Quoting the Mayadīpikā, a work of unknown date, but presumably ancient, in his wellknown book, the Chaturvarggachintāmaņi, he describes her as black in colour, seated on an owl, and holding a spear and a club.2 Yoginis though supernatural, yet are subservient to other deities and do not hold an independent rank. This Tārā of the Mayadīpikā is apparently a new figure not noticed elsewhere. In any case, she is different entirely from the divinity I am talking about. It is the second Mahāvidyā with whom I am chiefly concerned,

¹ A. Getty. The Gods of Northern Buddhism, page 110.

^{*} Bibl. Ind edition, Vol. II, page 97.

and who, like other principal deities of the henotheistic cult of the Hindus, reigns supreme in her sphere. She is one of the ten principal goddesses of the Sāktas. The ten Mahāvidyās or "Muses" as named in the Chāmuṇ-dātantra quoted in the Sabdakalpadruma are these—

कालो तारा महाविद्या षोडगी भुवनेखरी।
भैरवी किन्नमस्ता च विद्या धूमवती तथा।
वगला मिहविद्या च मातङ्गी कमलात्मिका।
एता दश महाविद्याः मिहविद्याः प्रकीर्त्तिताः॥

namely, (1) Kālī, (2) Tārā, (3) Shoḍaśī, (4) Bhuvaneśvarī, (6) Chhinnamastā, (7) Dhūmāvatī, (5) Bhairavī, (8) Vagalā, (9) Mātaṅgī, and (10) Kamalā.

Though Tārā is mentioned second and consequently called *Dvitīyā* or 'the second,' yet she is looked upon as unequalled in liberality or granting success and being one who can be invoked¹ or worshipped at any time is easily accessible. This is what we find in the case of the Buddhist Tārā also, for she can be directly appealed to without any intermediary, unlike other deities of the first rank. Ordinarily the Hindu mythology recognises eight Tārās but the principal ones are only three, namely, Ekajaṭā, Nīlasarasvatī, and Ugratārā.² I do not think these are to be treated as distinct divinities. They are rather, as Waddell has remarked with regard to the numerous Tārās of the Buddhist pantheon,³ the concrete objective representations of the modes and titles of one and the same deity, namely, Tārā. Difference in names is due to the various aspects of a god or goddess which a worshipper has in view. The Tārā proper is thus described by Mahīdhara in his *Mantramahōdadhi*—

विख्वयापनवारिमध्यविलसच्चेतास्त्रुजनमस्थितां कर्नोखङ्गनपालनीलनिलने राजत्करां नोलभाम्। काञ्चोकुण्डलद्वारकङ्गणलमत्केयूरमञ्जोरता-माप्तैनीगवरेविभूषिततन्मारत्तनेवन्याम्॥ पिङ्गोग्रैकजटां ललत्मुरशनां दंष्टाकरालाननां चर्म देषि वरं कटौ विद्धतीं श्रेतास्थिपदालिकाम्। श्रचोभ्येण विराजमानशिरमं स्मेराननांभोकद्वां तारां शावद्वदामनां दृदकुचामस्यां विलोक्याः स्मरेत्।

She sits on a white lotus looking beautiful amidst all-pervading waters. Her colour is blue and she holds a knife (or scissors), a sword, a skull and a blue lotus in her hands. She wears a girdle, ear-rings, necklace, wristlets, armlets and anklets, is decorated with serpents, has three red eyes and a fearsome tawny chignon, her tongue is protruding and her face looks terrible on account of her jaws. Round her waist she wears a tiger's skin and she holds an axe of white bones. Her head is adorned by Akshobhya. Her lotus-

Mahidhara in his Mantramahodadhi, Chapter IV, Sts. 44 and 122.

^{*} Her name Lilasarasvati given in the Tantrasira and accounted for as लीलवाबाक्ष्याचीत तेन कीलसर्वती is evidently an instance of danastati or popular etymology.

* The cult of Tara, Journal Royal Asiatic Society, 1894, page 65.

like face is smiling. She with prominent breasts sits on the chest of a corpse and is the mother of the triple world.'

The description given in the Tantrasāra¹ agrees in the main with this. It represents her in the praytālīḍha attitude,² i.e., standing in the attitude of shooting, with her left knee advanced and the right retracted, dwarfish in size, with protuberant abdomen and surrounded by a burning funeral pyre, holding Khaḍga (sword), Kartrī (scissors), or knife in the right hands, and Kapāla (skull) and Utpala (blue lotus) in the left hands. But this I think is a difference in detail only. Attributes change according to the aspects of a deity.

The Brahmanical Tārā like the Buddhist Tārā is primarily a 'Saviouress,' and this is in harmony with the etymology of the term." According to the Laghustava, the well-known eulogy of Durgā read daily by a staunch Śākta or the worshipper of Śaktī, she is to be invoked for the crossing of waters or at the time of distress caused by 'flood or swelling of waters.'

लच्मों राजजुले जयां रणभुवि चेमङ्गरीमध्वनि क्रव्यादिष्ठपमप्रभाजि शवरीं कान्तारदुर्गे गिरी। भूतप्रतिपशावराचसभये चृत्वा महाभैरवीं व्यामी चे विप्रांतर्गन्त विपदस्तारां च तोयप्रवे॥

"Having thought of Lakshmi at the royal courts, Jayā in the battle-field, Kṣhemankari during a journey, Savarī in inaccessible forests abounding in serpents, elephants, and carnivorous animals, Mahābhairavī at the time of fear due to ghosts, spirits, goblins, and demons, Tripurā during embarrassment, people cross or overcome their troubles thinking of Tārā during floods or the swelling of waters."

This would rather go to connect her with navigation—she is a deity who ensures safe crossing of waters. The very conception of her form as seated on a lotus emerging from all-pervading water, or the ocean, seems to favour this idea. She can save her votaries from the flooded waters or the sea, she can save them from the bhavasāgara, the Ocean of Existence. She will be what a boat is to a person who has to cross a river, a comparison found in the verse of Jātavedas in the Rigveda, so very closely connected with the cult of Durgā. Durgā is the chief goddess in the Brahmanical pantheon, and other goddesses are her 'Vibhūti' or the manifestation of her power. This is what we find from the Durgāsaptaśatī or Mārkandeyapurāṇa of which it forms a part. While addressing the demon-king Śumbha, Durgā says:—

पर्याता दृष्ट मखेव विश्वन्त्यो महिभूतयः।

जातवेदसे मुनपाम सीममरातीयती निद्धाति वेदः । स नः पर्वदतिदुर्गीण विया नावेन सिन्धे दुरितास्यन्निः ॥

See Sābdakulpadruma under Tārā.

² Cf. Tārāshtaka published in the Brhatstotraratnākara (Bombay, Nireayasāgara Press) Verse I, प्रशासीहण्ड-

[&]quot; Tara from the root ir. to cross or swim over.

Rigveda: I 99-1.

This verse though originally dedicated to Jatavedas is used for angasa or the mystic touching of the limbs before the Dury is appla fait is read.

"See, villain! these manifestations of my power submerge in me."

In a hymn of the Mahābhārata Durgā the well-known Hindu goddess is praised under the epithet of Tāriṇī and as Tārā and Tāriṇī are apparently identical names one is tempted to ask if Tārā was really in view of the composer of the hymn. This being an interesting reference to Tāriṇī as a goddess, perhaps, the earliest known in Brahmanical literature, it will not be out of place to quote in full the whole text of the hymn where it occurs, i.e., the hymn uttered by Arjuna at the instance of Krishṇa in praise of Durgā to attain victory over his formidable foes:

यर्जन उवाच-

नमस्ते मिडमेनानि आर्थे मन्दरवामिनि । कुमारि कालि कापालि कपिले क्रशापिङ्गले॥ भद्रकालि नसस्थं महाकालि नमोस्त ते। च । गड चगड नमस्तुभ्यं तारिण वरवर्गिन ॥ कात्यायनि महाभागे करालि विजये जये। शिखिविच्छध्वजधरे नानाभरणभृषिते॥ बह्मलपहरणे खड़ खेटकधारिणि। गोपेन्द्रसानुजे ज्येष्टे नन्दगोपनुलोइवे॥ मिंडवास्विपये नित्यं कौणिक पीतवासिन। बहहासे कोकसुखे नसस्तेऽस्तु रणप्रिये॥ उमे ग्राक्सिर ज्वाले क्यों कैटभनागिन। हिरण्याचि विरूपाचि वृमाचि च नमोऽस्तुते॥ वेदयति महापुख्ये ब्रह्मख्ये जातवेदसि । जम्बकटकचैलेषु नित्यं सित्तिहितालये॥ त्वं ब्रह्मविद्या विद्यानां महानिद्रा च देहिनाम। स्वन्द्रमातभगवति दुगें कान्तारवासिनि ॥ खाहाकार: खधा चैव कला काष्टा सरस्वती। मावित्री वेदमाता च तथा वेदान्त उच्चमे ॥ स्ततासि त्वं सहादेवि विग्रहेनान्तरात्मना। जयो भवतु में नित्यं त्वत्रसादाद्रणाजिरे॥ कान्तारभयदुर्गेषु भक्तानां पालनेषु च। नित्यं वसिस पाताले युद्दे जयमि दानवान् ॥ त्वं जंभनो मोहिनी च माया क्रीः योस्तयेव च। सस्या प्रभावती चैव साविची जननी तथा। तृष्टिः पृष्टिर्भृतिदासियन्द्रादित्यविवर्धिनो । भृतिभू तिमतां संख्ये वोच्यसे मिडचारणैः ॥

The following translation follows Muir in the main:—
Arjuna says:—Reverence to thee, Siddhasenānī (Generaless of the Siddhas),
the noble, the dweller on the Mandara mountain, Kumārī (maiden), Kālī,

Kapilā (tawny), Krishņapingalā (dark and brown). Reverence to thee, Bhadrakālī; reverence to thee, Mahākālī; reverence to thee, Chandī, Chandā; reverence to thee, O Tārinī, (deliveress) O Varavarninī (beautiful-coloured), O fortunate Kātyāyanī, O Karālī, O Vijayā, O Jayā, who bearest a peacock's tail for thy banner, adorned with various jewels, armed with many spears, wielding sword and shield, younger sister of the chief of cowherds (Krishna), eldest born in the family of the cowherd Nanda, delighting always in Mahisha's blood, Kauśiki, wearing yellow garments, loud-laughing, wolf-mouthed; reverence to thee, thou delighter in battle, O Umā Śākambharī, thou white one (or Śvetā), thou black one (or Krishnā). O destroyer of Kaitabba. Reverence to thee O Hiranyākshī (golden-eyed), distorted or three-eyed and dark-eyed one, O Vedaśruti (tradition of the Veda), most pure, devout, Jātavedasī (female Agni) who dwellest continually near to [the ridge of] mountain precipices and sepulchres, of sciences thou art the science of Brahma, the great sleep of embodied beings, O mother of Skanda, divine Durgā, dweller in wildernesses. Thou art called Svāhā, Svadhā, Kalā, Kāshṭhā (minute divisions of time) Sarasvatī, Sāvitri, mother of the Vedas, and the Vedanta. Thou, great goddess, art praised with a pure heart. By thy favour let me be ever victorious in battle. Thou dwellest in the wilderness in fearful and difficult places, (for the) protection of thy worshippers. In nether regions thou constantly abidest and ever conquerest demons in battle. Thou art Jambhanī, Mohinī, Māyā, Hrī, Śrī, the luminous Sandhyā (twilight) Sāvitrī, the mother Tushţī (contentment), strength, constancy, light, increaser of the sun and moon, the power of the powerful in battle-(all this) thou art seen by the Siddhas and the Chāraṇas (to be).1

This is only a stotra of Durga, no doubt, but the mention of Tarini or the deliveress of beautiful colours is quite significant particularly when this hymn is read together with the stuti or praise of the goddess by Yudhishthira, the chief of the five Pāṇḍavas. Whether Tārā, as conceived by the Tāntrikas later on, was known or not at the time when this hymn was composed we have no means of ascertaining. But the hymn at any rate goes to indicate that Brahmanical mythology knew of a goddess whose aid was sought for deliverance from troubles and who was conceived to be a noble maiden of a beautiful black, tawny and white colour, with three (or distorted) eyes, and the mother of all sciences about the beginning of the Christian era. To determine the date of the Mahābhārata or its parts is a difficult problem still awaiting final solution, so I am not in a position to say at what definite time the above-quoted eulogy was composed. Still I think it will not be far from accurate to ascribe it to the early centuries of the Christian era. In any case, this much seems to be certain that the form of Tārā as conceived by the latter Tantrikas is not altogether a new idea. But as the traits we find in the stotras by Yudhishthra2 or Arjuna3 are common to

¹ Muir, Sanskrit Texts Vol. IV, page 432-3.

^{*} Mahābhārata, Virāṭaparvan Chap. 6.

³ Bhishmaparvan, Chap. 23.

all goddesses as well as gods much stress, I am afraid, cannot be laid on these references.

In the cult of the Brahmanical Tārā we find that Akshobhya is the chief person. He is the seer of her mantra and is to be worshipped as such on the head of the goddess. There are, besides Akshobhya, a few seers also whom a votary of Tārā has to adore, namely, Vairochana, Amitābha, Padmanābha, Śankha, Pāndura, etc. These he will worship at different parts of the mystic diagram or spell of the goddess. Of these Amitābha and Vairochana, at least, are to be found in Buddhist mythology as well. Buddhists, or rather the Mahāyānists, we know, recognise five Dhyāni Buddhas, namely, (1) Vairochana, (2) Akshobhya, (3) Ratnasambhava, (4) Amitābha, (5) Amoghasiddha; and their Śaktis to the same number, to wit, (1) Vajradhātvīśvarī, (2) Pāndarā, (3) Tārā, (4) Māmakī, and (5) Lochanā.

This conception of Tara in the Hindu mythology will at once strike, a student of the Buddhist pantheon as not very dissimilar to that of the Sakti or female energy of Avalokiteśvara, the reflex or spiritual son of Amitābha and the most popular divinity in the Mahāyāna school of thought, whose worship extends not only from Nepāl to Tibet but northward to lake Baikāl and from the Caucasus eastward to Japan. In the Buddhist mythology, as I have already said, Tārā is conceived to be a saviouress or deliveress, i.e., one who helps man to cross the Ocean of Existence. Her dharing or the manual of worship giving her praises and spells is believed to have been written by the Dhyani-Buddha Vairochana. The legend regarding her origin which is generally accepted is that a tear fell from the eye of the All-pitying One, i.e., Avalokitesvara, and falling in the valley beneath, formed a lake from whose waters arose a lotus flower, which, opening its petals, disclosed the pure goddess Tārā.4 Though there are several Tārās, yet, I think, according to the colour she adopts, Tara may be thought of as five-fold, namely, the white, the blue, the green, the yellow, and the red Tara. These are the five sacred colours. Ordinarily she is green, but is seen red like the sun, blue like sapphire, white like the milky sea, or yellow like gold. In some of the representations known to us endeavour has been made to show all these colours simultaneously. Like other deities she too has a double aspect, the angry and the pacific one. Her angry forms are represented in three colours, red, yellow and blue, but her pacific form will be coloured white or green. In her pacific mode she is seated wearing the Bodhisatva ornaments, including the five-leaved crown and having long and wavy hair as well as a smiling expression. The angry aspects have dishevelled hair, Tantric attributes and ornaments and a third eye.

¹ Mantramahodadhi, IV. 93.

¹ Loc. cit. Sts. 94-95.

² This Dhyāni Budhha has a yellow colour and may be identical with the Pāndura who is connected with the Brahmanical Tārā.

Pandara is the Sakti or energy of Amitabha but it reminds one of Pandura the seer connected with the cult of the Brahmanical Tara.

A. Getty The Gods, etc., page 105.

Taking all her various forms together, the Buddhist Tārā shows all the traits of the Brahmanical Tārā.

The comparison thus shows that the Brahmanical Tārā rather resembles the angry form of the Buddhist divinity of that designation. The description of the goddess given above in accordance with the Brahmanical texts agrees in many respects with that of blue Tara or Ekajata. Both are blue, step to the right, stand on a corpse, have three eyes, laugh horribly, have prominent teeth and protruding tongue. Their eyes are red and thin hips covered by a tiger skin. Both have garlands of heads and ornaments of snakes. The four-armed Tārā in Buddhist mythology also has the same attributes or symbols which her Brahmanical sister has, namely, sword, knife, blue lotus and skull-cup. Besides these we find that the figure of Akshobhya in the headdress is also common, for we know that a small image of this Dhyāni Buddha is often to be seen in the head-dress of Tārā as is noticed in that of Mañjuśri Yamantaka, and Prajnaparamita. The fact that Akshobhya figures in the head of other divinities should cause no astonishment. For the nearer we approach to Tantric practices, the more difficult it becomes to differentiate the divinities. Owing to this circumstance M. Foucher in his Iconographie boudhique had to remark that in the Stotras and Dhārinīs the hymns of Tara are found hopelessly mixed with those of Marichi and others, and the personalities of the deities in these litanies are so vague that one is tempted to ask if the names really represent distinct deities.

This brief analysis, I think, shows that the Brahmanical Tara is very much like the Buddhist goddess of that name. The one difference we notice is that in Buddhist mythology she is ranked as a Bodhisattva, though at times she is called the mother of the Buddhas. The question which now presents itself for solution is whether Tara was originally a Brahmanical or a Buddhist deity. That she is a Bodhisattva could go to indicate that she might have been Brahmanical originally. For it does not appear unlikely that the Buddhists or Mahāyānists enrolled her as a Bodhisattva and gave her a position which was slightly inferior to that of a Buddha. This they did in several other instances.1 The incorporation of Hindu deities into the Buddhist pantheon is an admitted fact. When turned into a Bodhisattva the Brahmanical deity was no doubt placed below Buddha, but the Hindu votary while coming over to Buddhism would remember that a Bodhisattva is destined to become a Buddha in some future Kalpa and he is not very likely to feel this lowering of the position of his deity especially when he knows fully well that every person by virtue of his merit can rise to the rank of a god. On the other hand that would open for him a career which had been apportioned to his deity. By the dint of his energy or virtue he himself could attain to a similar position. This bringing in of Brahmanical gods was not resented for it still allowed the pious convert to continue his adoration of his favourite divinity or ishtadeva. The association of Tara with Avalokitesvara will hardly tend

¹ For example, Siva became Avalokitesvara of the Mahāyānists.

to counteract this idea, for in Avalokiteśvara we can recognise Siva, the well-known Brahmanical deity. But the data now available do not favour this view. They would show with a considerable amount of certainty that the conception of Tara must have been Buddhist originally. What leads me to such a surmise is this. According to the Hindu Tantra works Tārā appears to be more Buddhist than Brahmanical for the one reason that Akshobhya is placed on her head and has thus been given a higher position than that of the divinity. That 1Akshobhya is a Buddha is too well-known to require demonstration, but I am not aware that he figures at all as a distinct personality elsewhere in Brahmanical mythology. To make him a rishi or seer of her mantra is an attempt towards Brahmanisation of the cult, apparently. Otherwise, the elevation of a 'seer' (a mortal after all) to such an exalted position is hardly explicable. The very position in the head-dress is a Buddhist feature.

Though the appearance of Akshobhya is in itself a strong argument in favour of Tārā's Buddhist origin, yet I think further support is required. This is supplied by an old tantra work, named Acharatantra whose manuscript copy dated in the Vikrama year 1854 (A.D. 1797) I had occasion to see in the State Library at Jammu. This work records a legend which will elucidate the point. It says that Vasishtha, the well-known rishi, failed to propitiate Tārā by means of the Brahmanical modes of worship and, when on the verge of disappointment, was asked by her through Akāšavāņī (i.e., incorporal voice), to go to Buddha (lit. Vishnu in the form of Bodha) and worship her in accordance with the āchāra or system as taught by him. While addressing the seer, Tārā, without manifesting herself, thus spoke to him :-

> मदीयाराधनाचारं बीहरूपी जनादनः। एक एव विजानाति नान्यः कवन तत्त्वतः॥ व्यवालेशवहुना कालोऽयं गमितस्त्वया। विरुद्वाचारशीलेन सम तत्त्वमजानता ॥ तडोधरूपिको विष्कोः मन्निधि याहि संप्रति। तेनीपदिष्टाचारेण मामाराधय सुव्रत ॥ तदेवागु प्रसद्भा स्यां त्वयि वत्स न संग्रयः।

Translation :-

The real way to worship me is known to Vishnu in the form of Buddha and to nobody else. In vain you have spent so much time and undergone

I This name of Akshobhya occurs in the thousand epithets of Vishnu and is merely an attribute for it does not represent any particular form of that god. The only other instance I know of where the term is used though in the feminine gender as a proper noun is in the Mayadipikii quoted by Hemādri in his Chaturvargga chintamani where it occurs as the name of one of the sixty-four Yopinis or female attendants of Durga. Even in this case the personality spoken of is so vague that one can reasonably doubt if the name really represents any distinct divinity.

² Last three verses of its first Patala or Chapter.

troubles not knowing my real nature and following the wrong course or practices. Go, therefore, unto Vishnu who has assumed the form of Bodha (Enlightenment)1 at once and worship me in accordance with the way (āchāra) he will teach you who are of good vows and conduct. Then only I shall be pleased with you immediately, O dear one, there is no doubt.

The legend continues to say that the sage went to China (mahāchīna) and learned from Buddha himself how to worship Tārā. It also gives various

details but we have no concern with them at present.

To say that the real nature of Tara was known to Buddha and that she could be propitiated by means of the Chinese way of her worship suffices, in my opinion, to show her Buddhist origin. I think the bearing of the legend on this question is quite clear, and on the strength of it one can safely surmise that Tārā was originally Buddhist divinity.

The earliest mention of the goddess in an epigraphical document known to me is perhaps in the Chalukyan inscription of the time of Tribhuvanamalla or Vikramāditya VI, whose reign began in the Saka year 1017 (A.D. 1095-6). Here, too, she is evidently Buddhist and not Brahmanical. So she is in the inscription from Śrāvasti which is dated in the Vikrama year 1276 (A.D. 1219).

In this connection I may remark that her association with Avalokiteśvara rather lends an additional support to this view. The cult of this Bodhisattva is fairly old and was known in the early centuries of the Christian era as would appear from a railing figure preserved in the Lucknow Museum which I think bears the representation of Avalokiteśvara with Amitābha, his spiritual father, in the head-dress. Whether he was conceived along with his Saktī, namely, Tārā so early we are not sure2 nor can we say for certain at what time Tara was first introduced into the Brahmanical pantheon. About the 8th century we know she was a very favourite deity3 not only of the Buddhists but of the Hindus also as I have already said because of her easy accessibility. She could be invoked without the intercession of any priest and at any time, like Avalokiteśvara, the All-compassionate. She has been the deliveress ever and anon. She was largely worshipped by the Buddhists when Hiuan Tsiang visited India. Between the 8th and 12th centuries she became very popular, and as Miss Getty tells us,1 many temples and colleges were dedicated to her and there was hardly a household without a statue of Tara.

The next figure in the lot which requires notice is very much like the foregoing one in style and is evidently of the same age. It measures 3" by 21" by 51" and represents Buddha (Plate II) seated cross-legged in the bhūmisparšamudrā or the earth-touching attitude and in the Vajrāsana or 'adamantine' posture in which the Buddha sat at the time of the Bodhi or Enlightenment, with an indomitable resolution not to get up till he had

¹ C/. A. Getty, The Gods, etc. page 54.

Beals, Buddhistic records, etc., Vol. II, pages 103 and 174.

³ Gods, etc., page 105.

reached the goal and attained to the highest wisdom as Aśvaghosha has expressed it:-

भिनद्मि तावड्गवि नैतदासनं न यामि यावत्कतकत्वतामिति॥

The prabhāmandala or nimbus is here cut from within round the upper part of the figure. A small circular piece is soldered at the back bearing, as in the figurine of Tārā, the Buddhist creed in the Nāgarī character of about the 9th century A.D.

The leaves of the pipal or Ficus religiosus shown above the head of the figure defines the statuette as an image of Gautama or the historical Buddha. Different Buddhas we know have different bodhi trees. For instance, the nyagrodha or banian tree (Ficus indica) was the bodhi tree of Kāśyapa, the udumbara (Ficus glomerata) is that of Kanaka Muni, the Sala or Shorea robusta of Viśvabhū, the Pāṭali (Bignoria Suaveolens) of Vipaśvi, and the Siriśa (acacia Sirisa) of Krakuchhanda. Similarly the historical Buddha is said to have the pipal as his bodhi tree. The Hinayanists will look upon this figurine as a representation of Gautama Buddha who sat under the pipal tree in the Vajrāsana posture at the time of the Enlightenment. They worship him under this form in Ceylon, Java, Burma and Siam. But the Mahāyānists will take it to be an image of Akshhobhya who is likewise represented seated crosslegged with the left hand lying on the lap and the right hand touching the earth with the tips of the outstretched fingers, the palm turned inwards, in the same pose in which Gautama Buddha sat invoking the Earth to bear witness that he had resisted the temptation of Mara. The followers of the Great Vehicle, we are told, appeal to the Buddha in his etherial form of Amitābha. As the collection to which this figurine belongs is of the Mahāyānist cult, I should rather like to call it Akshobhya, although I think the name must have been an attribute originally signifying the indomitable will of the Lion of the Sākyas.

Both these statuettes are in a fair state of preservation. The image of Tārā is slightly damaged at the right hand finger tips. Both are well executed and show considerable regard to realism.

The two Brahmanical images may now be noticed. One of these represents Adi-Varāha or the primeval Boar who was the third incarnation of Vishņu (Plate III). It is a colossal statue in sandstone, measuring 4' 4½" long and 3' 11" high, and came from a locality called Bani-e-ki barāt, lying about half a mile to the west of Dudhai, a Sub-Post Office and a Police Station in the Lalitpur sub-division of the Jhansi District in 24 25N. and 78 23E. Cunningham¹ noticed it in 1880 along with countless pieces lying scattered over the place. A drawing of it was published by Babu P. C. Mukerjee in 1899 in his account of the antiquities of Lalitpur. In 1910-11 it was exhibited at Allahabad at the time of the Exhibition. I secured it for the Lucknow Museum in 1913 through

¹ See his account of remains at Dudhai A.S.R. Vol. X, page 90.

the kind offices of Mr. F. O. Oertel and Mr. C. A. S. Silberrad, i.c.s. It is slightly damaged in transit at one or two places where the stone has chipped off. But on the whole, the sculpture is fairly well preserved.

The Varāha is represented standing with the right leg advanced as in walking. Underneath he has a Naga figure with seven hoods over the head (five of these are, however, broken) and a long coiled tail and folded hands in adoration. A female figure stands to the left of the Naga holding a chowrie or fly-whisk in the right hand, while her left hand (which is at present damaged) was placed below the mouth of the deity. The image is profusely carved. The portion which is exposed to sight is cut into figurines of many sorts representing various divinities of the Hindu pantheon, including the different incarnations of Vishņu, and his door-keepers. These figurines are engraved and arranged in five elliptical rows or panels going round the body of the Varaha and starting from the neck where a serpentine coil is formed. The portion meant for the backbone is decorated with lotus flowers. In front of the snout we see a damaged figure of a female which possibly stands for Sarasvatī with her Vīņā or lyre. On the two tusks, one on each side, we see a figurine, possibly Prithivī. Each of the ears has a small image of a female engraved on it.

The Ādi-Varāha or Bhūvarāha whom our figure represents is shown either as man-boar (ngvarāha), i.e., with the face of a boar in association with the body of a man, or wholly as a boar like the figure under notice. According to the Vaikhānasāgama quoted by Gopi Nath Rao, the Nāga shown underneath would be Šēsha or Ādiśesha and the figure of the female standing to the right will be Prithivī or the Earth-goddess, as this corresponds to the āgamas. Though the attitude is not of the Añjali, i.e., she is not shown unadansata as having her hands folded yet her touching the muzzle is very characteristic. So also her face, which is expressive of shyness and joy, and the height, for we are told that the image of Bhūmidevī should be as high as the chest of the Varāha.

Though the carving is not so fine as that of the similar image at Eran which has been reproduced by Dr Kumarasvami,² yet it can serve as a good illustration of mediæval sculpture. It bears no date but as it closely resembles another figure of this kind which is still standing in situ at Chāndpur, halt way between Dudhai and Deogarh, and bears an inscription dated in Samvat 1207 (A.D. 1150), it must be relegated to the same period, viz., the 12th century A.D. Possibly the worship of Varāha was very popular then as several of his representations belong to that period. The same was perhaps, the case during the early mediæval age, as we can infer from the fact that Bhoja, the powerful monarch of Upper India, in the 9th century, assumed the biruda or title of Ādi-Varāha or 'Primeval Boar' and issued coins bearing the figure of the bear incarnation of Vishņu which we find in abundance in Northern India.

¹ Elements of Hindu Iconography, Vol. I, Part I, page 132, Loc. Cit.

[&]quot; Viscakarma, Plate 93, XCIII.

The next image to be described is that of Siva, and is made of bronze (Plate IV). It measures I' by 8" by 71" and is in an excellent state of preservation. The place of its origin is not known, but I bought it for the Museum from a dealer in brass-ware at Benares who got it from a Nepalese. It represents Siva sitting on a lotus with his right leg extended downwards having below the knee a small bell tied as is generally found in the Saivite images of Southern India. The left leg is bent in the oriental fashion, and the god is sitting in the Sukhāsīna attitude. He has four arms. The right upper hand holds a tanka or axe between the fore-fingers and the middle finger the remaining fingers being turned to the palm and thus making a pose of the hand which is called tripatākahastā, i.e., the hand with three banners. The right lower hand is lifted up in the abhaya-mudrā or attitude of imparting security. The left upper hand holds a deer by the legs between the forefinger and the middle finger, the remaining fingers being turned like those of the right upper hand in the tripatākā pose. The left lower hand is extended downwards in the varamudrā or gift-bestowing attitude. The god is wearing several ornaments such as wristlet, necklace, anklet, etc., and a broad waist band. He has a dhoti and to both of his ears festoons are tied in a conventional way. From the waist to the knees there is an ornamental projection which is probably a conventional treatment of the drapery. The head-dress of the deity is characteristic of South Indian workmanship. It has a Karandamukuta which one would rather expect in the images of female deities. The representations of Siva are ornamented with Jajāmukuja. The style of the figure, the head-dress, the small bell on the right leg, the waist band or Katibandha, and the pose of the hands, are all South Indian, and I can confidently surmise that the figure came originally from the South. It is not dated but apparently belongs to the late mediæval period.

Out of the additions made to the Jaina Section during my three years in Lucknow I want to notice very briefly only three figures. Two of them are in alabaster or black marble and the third is brass. The former I secured at Chhatarpur in Bundelkhand. One of them represents Suvidhinātha (Plate I, Fig. a) and the other Neminātha (Plate I, Fig. c), two patriarchs in the Jaina hierarchy, who are shown standing nude and flanked by chowrie bearers. The respective symbols or laûchhanas of these Tīrthankaras, namely, the crab and the conch shell, are shown on the pedestals which bear also short votive inscriptions written in the Sanskrit language and the Devanāgarī script. According to these records these images were consecrated in the (Vikrama) year 1208 (A.D. 1151) on Thursday the 5th day of the bright half of Āshāḍha. They furnish good examples of the mediæval Jaina sculpture of Upper India and as such are published here.

The third and the last figure requiring mention is a brass statuette which was secured at Hardwar in 1914 (Plate V). It represents Rishabhanātha, the first Tīrthankara or pontiff of the Jaina pantheon, who is sitting cross-legged in meditation on a lotus resting on two lions, in the midst of the remaining twenty-three Jinas, thirteen of whom are shown seated in the dhyāna-

mudrā, while ten stand in the usual posture, nude and with their hands placed on the thighs, palms inwards. The two standing figurines, one on each side of the lion-throne, are possibly the accompanying Yaksha and Yakshi, namely, Gomukha and Chakreśvari; and those sitting at the outer corners of the pedestal with hands folded in adoration, are evidently meant for the donors. To the right we see a serpent. Above the cognisance, which in this case is the bull, there is a standing figurine with lotus in the right hand. Below the symbol there is a row of small seated figurines which perhaps stand for the planets with Surya to the left (i.e., the proper right) side of the image. Below this row there is another figure standing in the centre whose nature is not apparent. The Jina is sitting flanked by two standing figures under a chhatra or umbrella on the sides of which a celestial being holding festoons and an elephant with a rider are shown together with a deva in flight above the pinnacle or top of the umbrella. The figurines of the Jinas, the conventional elephants, makaras and lions or leogryphs on the outermost row are all nicely arranged and the composition gives a pleasing effect. The relief forms a little temple with the Jina sitting inside and having a domical spire surmounted by an amalaka. The whole piece rests on six legs, three on each side. At the back of the pedestal a short votive inscription of three lines is cut. Its language is Sanskrit and the script Devanāgarī. According to this record Samvat 1216 (A.D. 1159) Ashādha 9, is the date when the statuette was consecrated. Though entire, it is unfortunately much defaced on account of the sandal-paste which was daily rubbed over it, for it was, when purchased, being worshipped as a Brahmanical deity on the Harkipaidi at Hardwar which is one of the most sacred spots of the Hindus. Still it is a good specimen of the Jaina art of the twelfth century A.D.

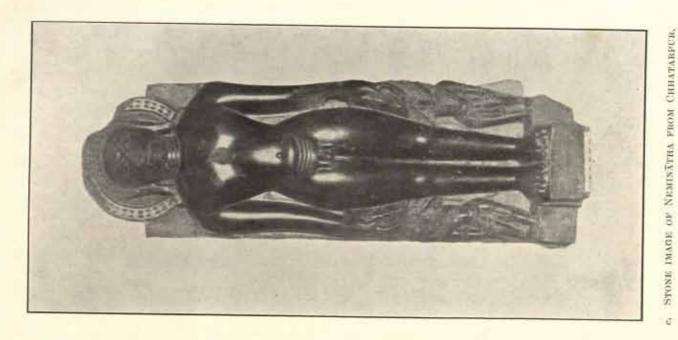
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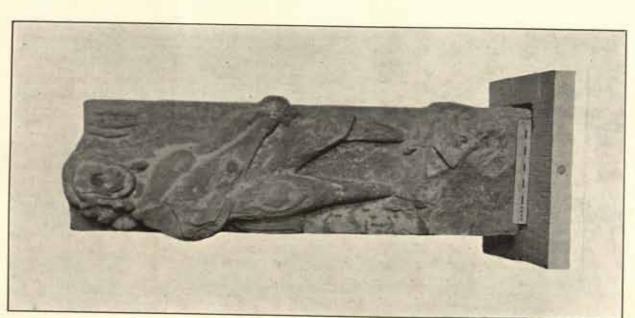
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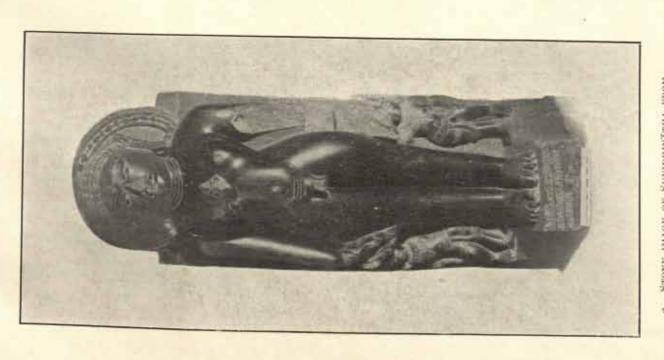
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						13		11, 4
, Buddhist sakti of Avalokitesvar					3			11, 8 ff
-, Originally Buddhist							1.80	11, 10
-, mode of her worship				8				11, 10
, very popular in mediaval period					*	14		n, 11
, probably connected with navigar		100	(8)	19.			*	11, 5
Vasishtha, seer worshipping Tārā	100	2 -						11, 10
Vairochana, Dhyani-Buddha			75		100	3	*	11. 8
Vajra-dhātvišvarī, a saktī			180	*				11. 8
A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR				1.00	-		-	

CENTRAL INDIA.

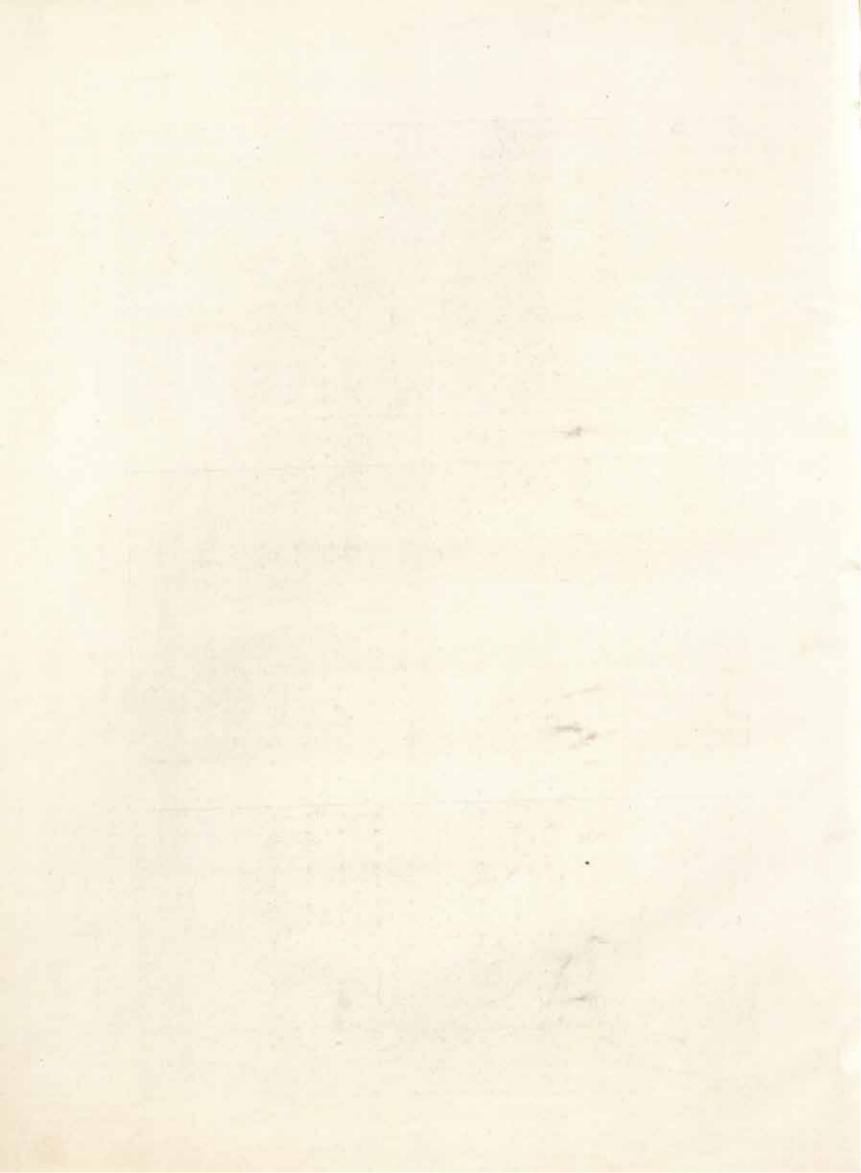




h. RAILING FIGURE FROM GURGAON,



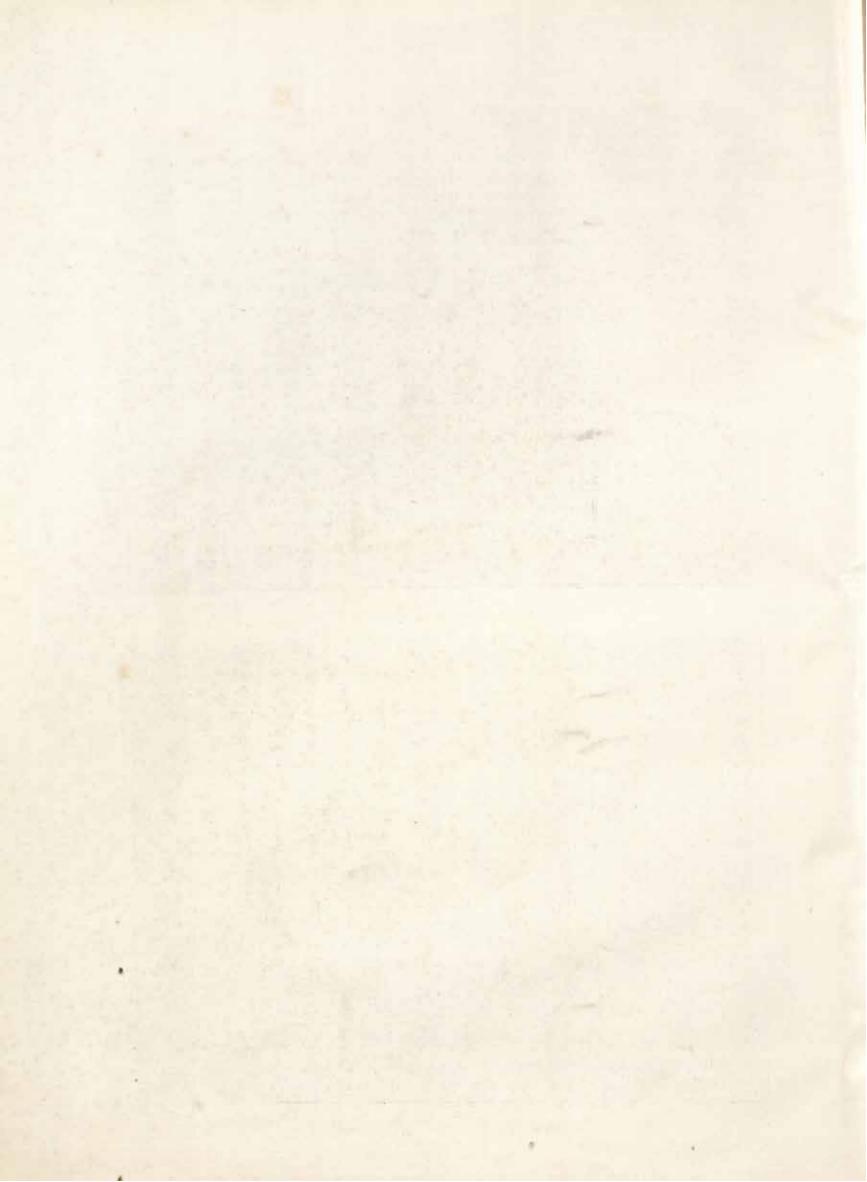
 STONE IMAGE OF SUVIDHINTHA FROM СНИАТАВРИЯ, СКУТНАВ INDIA.







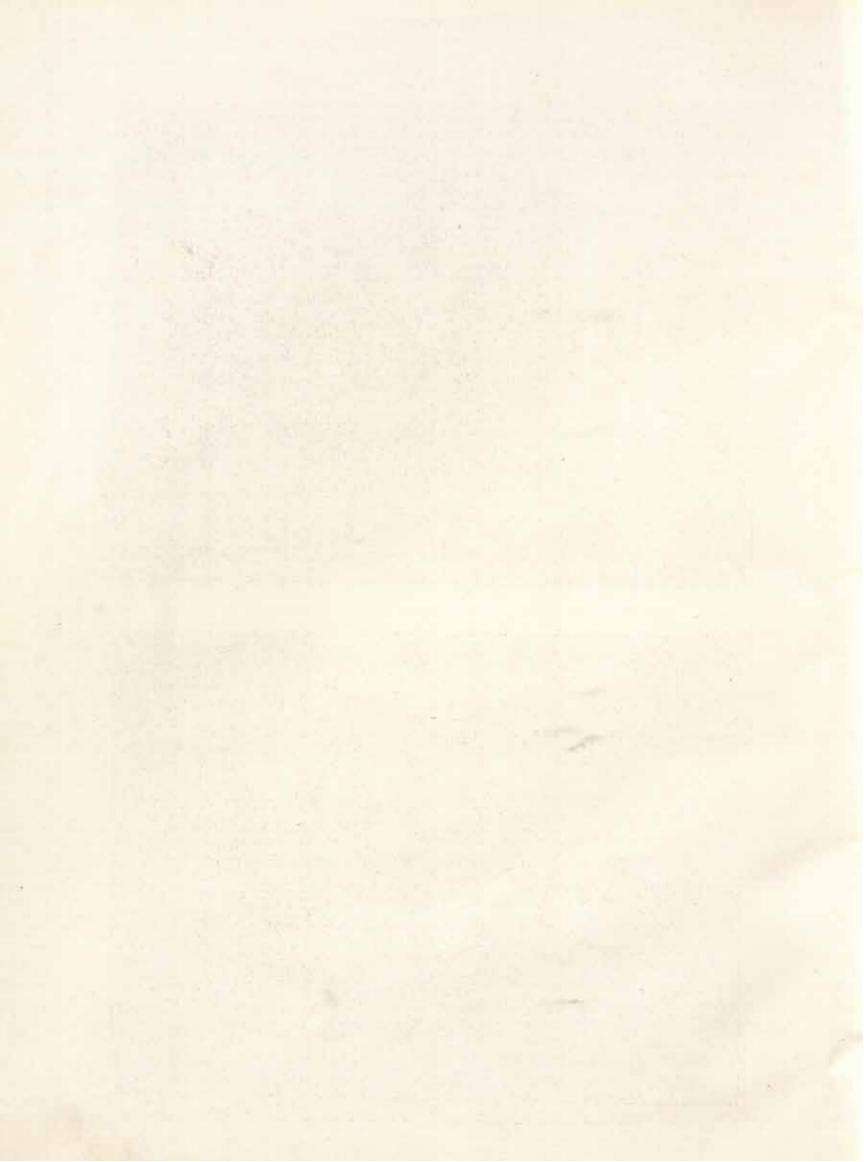
TARA AND BUDDHA IN BRASS FROM ŚRAVASTI.

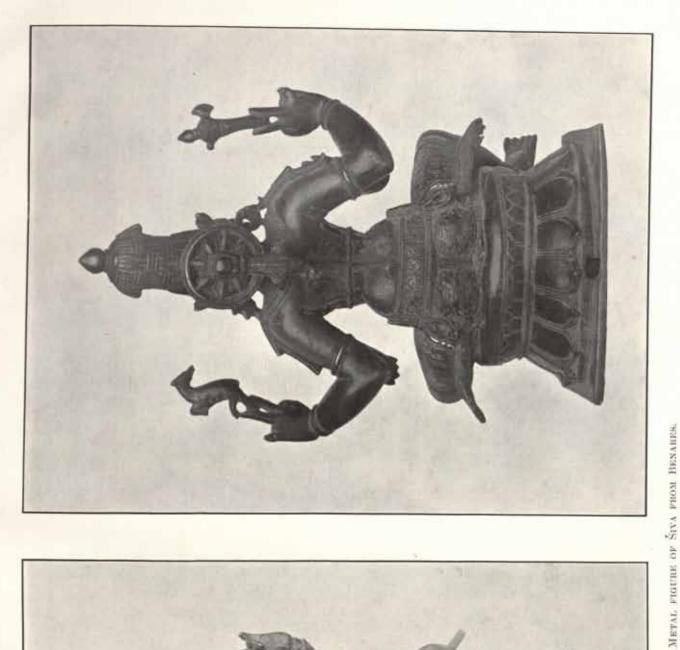






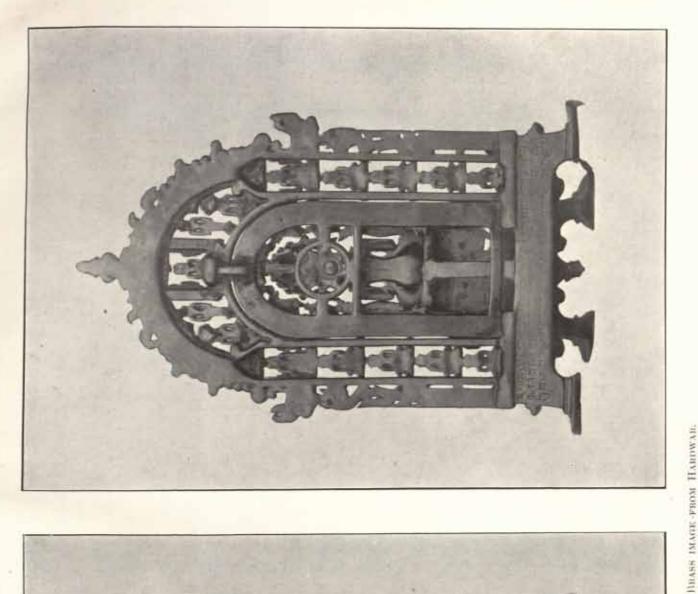
VARXHA FROM DUDHAI, DISTRICT LALITPUR,

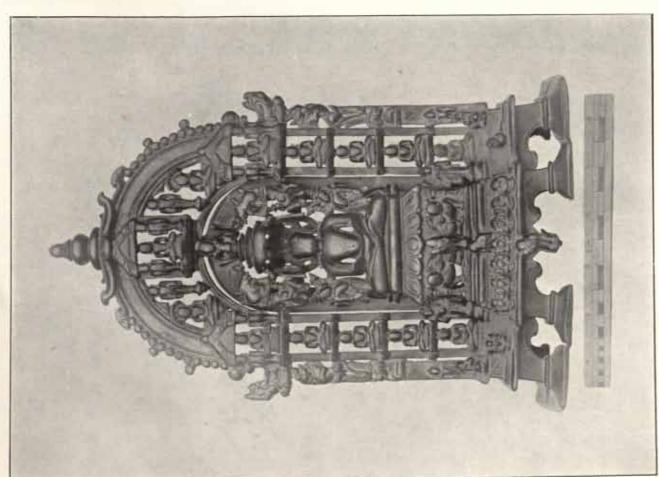




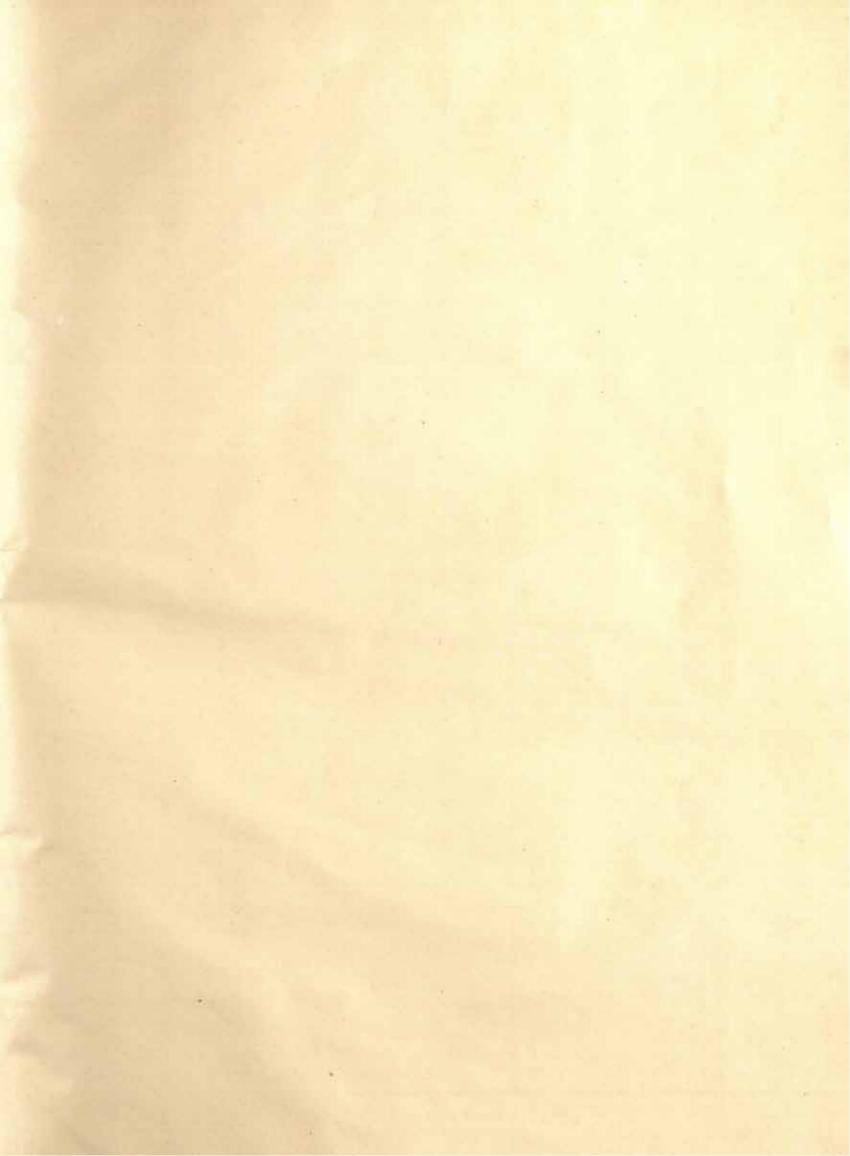


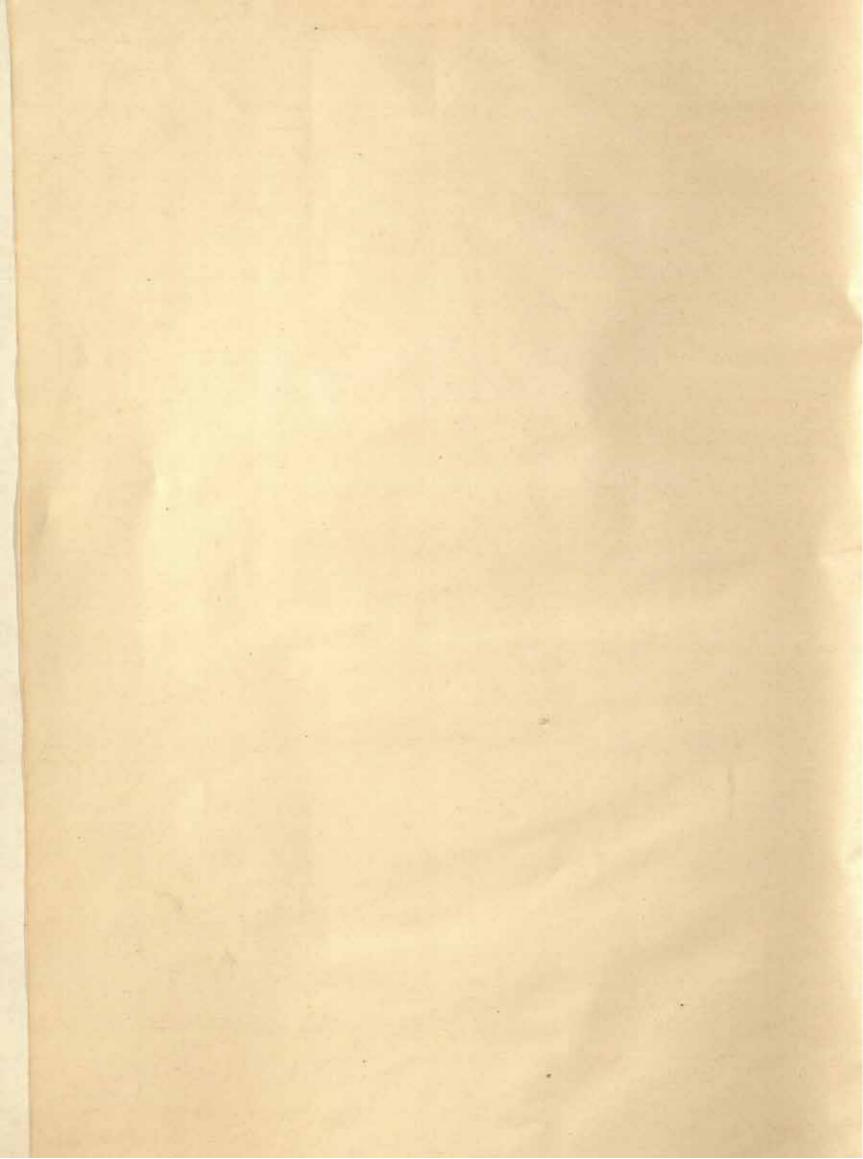


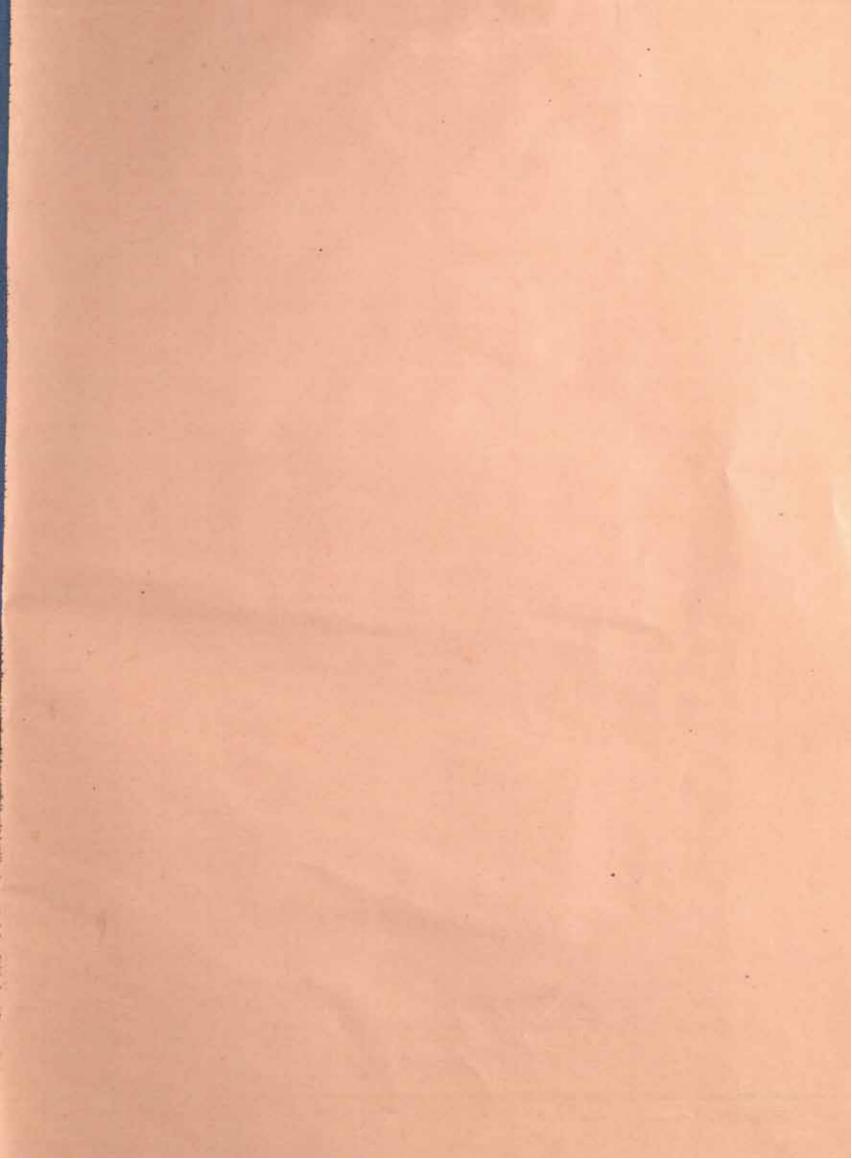


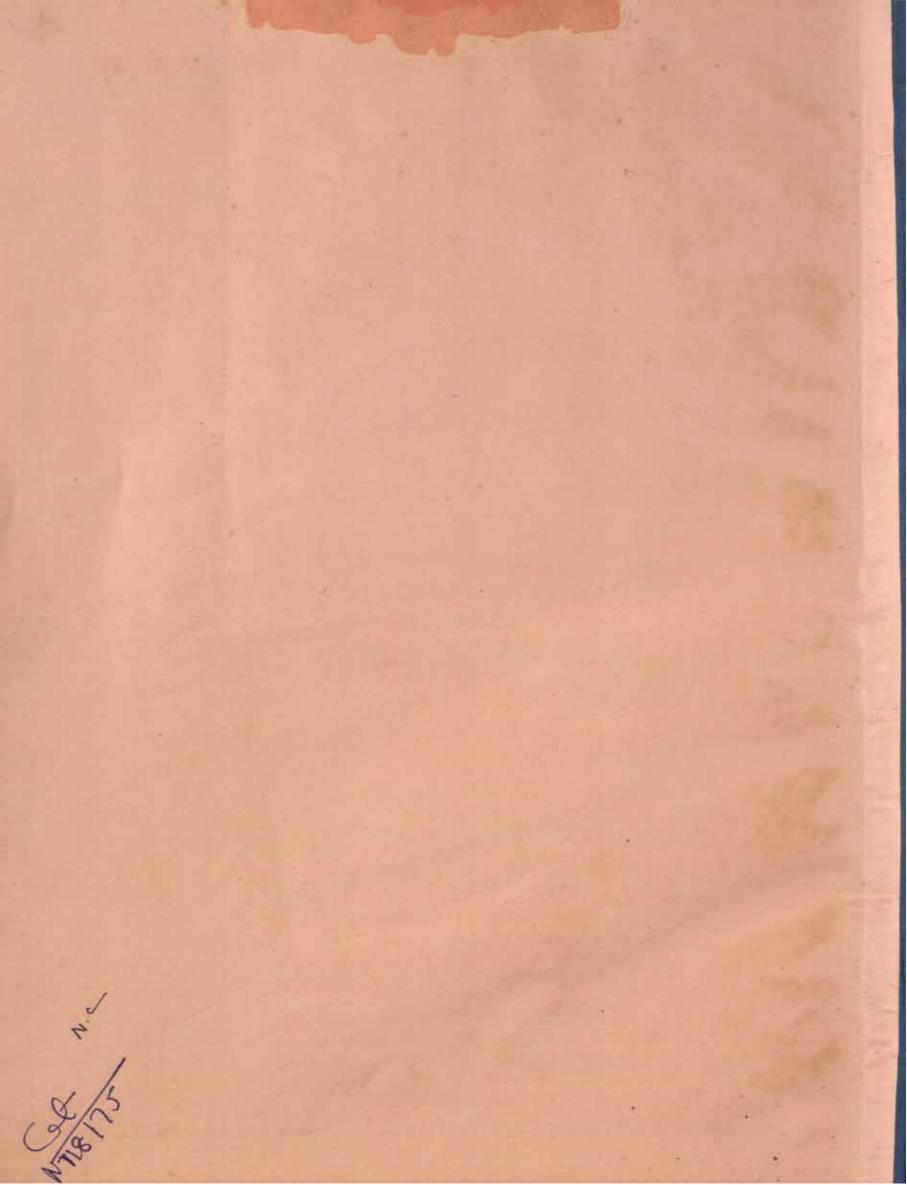












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